

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising, by weight of the composition, of from 88 to 99.99% of a polymer component selected from the group consisting of ~~a polyamide, a compound of a polyamide,~~ nylon-12, nylon-11, nylon-6,10, nylon 6,12, nylon-10,12, nylon-6, nylon-6,6, and mixtures thereof, which polymer component is the sole polymer component in the composition, and from 0.01 to 0.25% of a flow aid selected from the group consisting of a hydrophobicized silica, a hydrophobic silica, and mixtures thereof,

wherein the drying loss of the flow aid after 5 days of conditioning at relative humidity of 95% is less than or equal to 1% by weight.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer component has a median particle size of from 0.1 to 250  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 5 (Original): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flow aid has a median particle size of from 10 nm to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 6 (Original): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flow aid has a specific surface area of from 20 to 600  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ .

Claim 7 (Original): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the increase in the flow time of the composition after six days of conditioning at 95% relative humidity and

40°C followed by 24 hours of conditioning at 50% relative humidity at 20°C is less than 20%.

Claim 8 (Original): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flow aid is present in an amount effective for preventing caking.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flow aid is present in an amount effective for preventing an increase in the flow time of the polymer component of greater than 5% after exposure to an atmosphere of 95% relative humidity at 40°C for 6 days followed by exposure to an atmosphere of 50% relative humidity at 20°C for 24 hours.

Claim 10 (Original): The composition as claimed in claim 9 wherein the increase in flow time is greater than 10%.

Claim 11 (Original): A process for coating a molding, comprising coating the molding with a composition as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 12 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the molding comprises a metal or a metal alloy.

Claim 13 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the composition is fluidized during coating by injection of a gas.

Claim 14 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the coating is fluidized-bed sintering, rotational sintering, electrostatic coating, tribocoating or minicoat processing.

Claim 15 (Original): A process for producing a sintered amide, comprising sintering the composition as claimed in claim 1 by laser-sintering to form the article.

Claim 16 (Original): A cosmetic comprising the composition claimed in claim 1.

Claim 17 (Original): A coating material comprising the composition claimed in claim 1.

Claim 18 (New): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer component is present in an amount of 95 to 99.99% by weight.

Claim 19 (New): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer component is present in an amount of 99 to 99.99% by weight.

Claim 20 (New): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer component is present in an amount of 99.8 to 99.99% by weight.

Claim 21 (New): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer component is present in an amount of 99.88 to 99.99% by weight.

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Claim 22 (New): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer component is present in an amount of 99.9 to 99.99% by weight.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating Claim 2 therein, and by referring to the polymer as a --polymer component-- so as to provide antecedent basis for reciting that it is the --sole component--, as supported inferentially in the specification at page 4, line 10ff, which describes the addition of other, optional polymers. Compare *In re Johnson*, 558 F.2d 1008, 194 USPQ 187 (CCPA 1977) (**copy enclosed**) (holding that a claim to a genus with a recital of a negative proviso that did not appear in the specification complied with the description requirement.)

Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 4 and 9 have been amended to be consistent with the above-discussed amendment to Claim 1.

New Claims 18-22 have been added, as supported in the specification at page 4, lines 2-9.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1 and 4-22 are now pending in the application.